

Good News

THE
NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
474 YALICK ROAD, - PO BOX 802
DALLAS, PA 18612

November 2025

Phone: 570-675-3859
Fax: 570-675-5646
Email: stpaul@epix.net
Web Page:
www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Rev Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Home Phone: 570-696-2688

In-person worship and communion
Saturday, 5:30 pm | Sunday, 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am (Sept. thru May)
Please continue to visit our website at
www.stpaulsdallaspa.org for worship
resources to use as you are able, and to
join our Live Stream Zoom meeting at
9:30 am on Sunday.



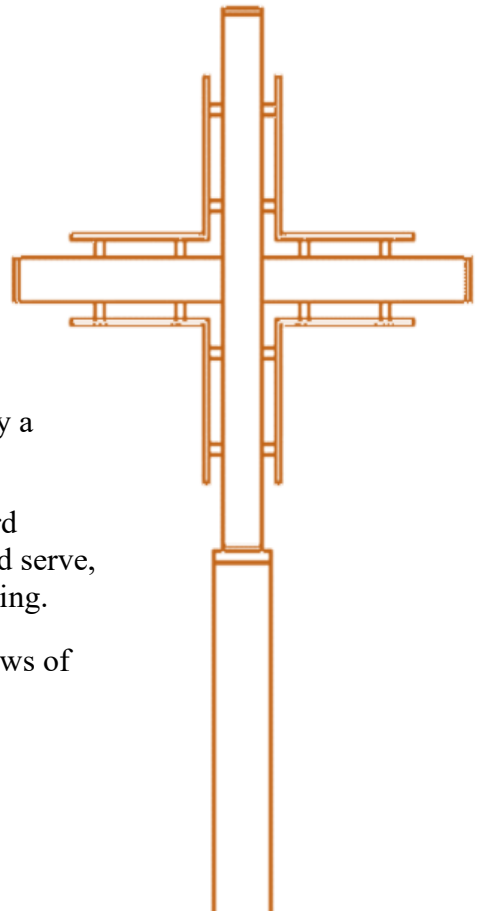
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith.

Our mission is to share with all people God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to witness and serve, treating one another with Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Understanding.

By our commitments, actions, deeds, and resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our Community, Nation, and World.

Adopted May 1993



ST. PAUL'S STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Office Staff	Gail Smallwood & Carol Fett	
Dir. of Music/Organist	Margaret Quintanar	
Youth Choir Dir.	Jean Grube	
Minister of Technology	Marissa Miller	
Sexton	James Madonna	
Sunday School Superintendent	Tony Linnen	
Financial Secretary	Ruth Ide	
CONGREGATION COUNCIL		
<u>2025/2026</u>	<u>2026/2027</u>	<u>2027/2028</u>
Cathy Ridout*	Frank Mariano*	Larry Pierce*
Don Kretchmer	Gail Smallwood*	Bruce Thomas
Tony Linnen	Marissa Miller*	Gail Ide
Julie Holbrook	Amanda Brezovsky	Pat Peiffer
*Final Term		
CONGREGATION OFFICERS		
President	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Vice-President	Frank Mariano	
Secretary	Gail Smallwood	
Treasurer	Carol Fett	
STANDING COMMITTEES		
Christian Education	Marissa Miller, Tony Linnen, Julie Holbrook & Amanda Brezovsky	
Communications	Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood	
Evangelism	Gail Ide	
Fellowship	Julie Holbrook, Larry Pierce	
Finance	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett	
Head Start	Carol Fett	
Health Ministry	Cathy Ridout & Gail Ide	
Landscaping	Tony Linnen	
Long Range Planning	Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer, Amanda Brezovsky	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett & Frank Mariano	
Salary Review	Frank Mariano	
Social Ministry	Larry Pierce	
Staff Support	Frank Mariano, Don Kretchmer	
Worship & Music	Pat Peiffer	
* * *		

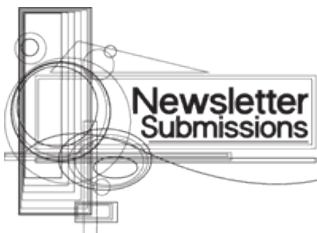
PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. Pray for the Congregations of Shepherd of the Hills, Dushore and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas.

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Linda Ash, Chris Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley Button, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Sandi Fassett, Marge Fritzinger, Morgan Holbrook, Robert Kline, June Lorah, Pat Peiffer, Rachelle Pryor, Alan Pugh, Wally Richardson, Greta Ruckno, Ann Sabol, Mark Sabol, Dave Scheff, Anita Weiss, Peter & Carol Wittkamp, Alyson Wood, Shirley Zimmerman.

Please note: Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or stpaul@epix.net if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Ed Banaszak, Robert Binger, Michael Bowanko, Judy C., Michelle Casey, Marjorie Catania, Paul Davis, Janice DeFebo, Grace Sungle Emmett, Rich Fufaro, Nancy & Christopher Gillies, Bonnie Goodrich, Nancy Harm, Jenn Hubbard, Ashley Hutchins, Christine Ide, Jack Jones, Michael Kaminski, Debbie Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, Carol Marker, Sue & Dan McConnell, Lillian McGrady, Dwight McKee, Rob Merritt, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Toni Quinn, Febe Quintanar, Robin Rosencrans, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, John Sheeran and family, Nancy Shymanski, River Grace Siperko, Dorothy Smith, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Judi Vietz and family, Jere Vietz, Lisa W., Tabitha Walters, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Carl & Ruth Zimmerman, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Keith, Diane, Mary, Rosemary, Morgan, Lori, Greg, Justin, Jim, the M family, Evan (no last names given).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the combined December/January issue and the deadline for all

submissions will be **Noon on Sunday, November 16, 2025.**



UPDATE FROM OCTOBER 7 MEETING:

The ELCA recently approved revisions to its model constitution, and the revised document will be made available to St. Paul's members for adoption at the January 2026 annual meeting.

Church Office: the office will get a new computer to replace its old computer that can no longer be updated; all other office computers will be updated to Windows 11. **Christian Education:**

The committee met and has scheduled all the Sunday School events for the 2025-26 school year; the first event will be Sunday, October 26 (Reformation Sunday) and will feature a bonfire and pumpkin decorating. Other events include the Turkey Decorating Contest in November, an Advent Event on November 30, the Sunday School Christmas Play, Hanging of the Greens and Birthday Party for Jesus on

Dec. 21, the Bible Bowl on Feb. 8, a Palm Sunday event on March 29, the Head Start Project on April 19 and an Old Testament Project on April 26. **Evangelism:** St. Paul's table at the Harvest Festival enjoyed many visitors. Four people will join Gail Ide in work on the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) project. **Head Start:**

Four people have volunteered to read stories to the children. **Social Ministry:** The committee will be working on several projects in November & December. Thirty-two pairs of sneakers were donated to the Head Start program. **Property:**

Work on the broken outside window frame, and on all the windowsills in the classrooms has been completed; gaps in the sidewalk expansion joints and between the bricks in the columbarium will be filled. **Old Business:** The finance committee will begin review of the church budget in preparation for a new budget beginning in

January 2026. **100th Anniversary:** The committee encourages everyone to bring photos of deceased family members for the All Saints display on Sunday, Nov. 2. Planning is underway for the Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday, Dec. 21. Money that the committee raised throughout the

year will be distributed to Pastor Grube's Helping Hand fund, the meditation garden, the general fund and disaster relief. **New Business:** Nominating committee was formed for council elections which will be held at the January 2026 Annual Meeting.

A THANKSGIVING HYMN

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, All Things "Bright and Beautiful" is a perfect choice. Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by.

It all leads to this joyful reminder: *"He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."*

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irishwoman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*. But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, "a great throng" gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter "To all God's beloved ... who are called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God. The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God's beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are "called to be saints."

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

SPECIAL DATES

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2025*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 2, 2025*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2025*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 23, 2025*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 27, 2025*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 30, 2025*

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PASSAGES

Baptism: Sienna Hope Roman, daughter of Christopher and Bethany Roman and brother of Christopher Roman – Sunday, October 12, 2025.

† † †



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we gather for worship through this month, you'll notice a shift from Jesus' teaching about discipleship and living the kingdom lifestyle to more ethereal, theological thoughts of end-time promise fulfillment, prophecy, and heavenly matters. This is the usual way the church concludes its liturgical year and

begins the new year in Advent. We can't help but get a little more big-picture perspective when we talk about Christ's reign among us and the promise of his coming. Come and be awe-inspired by the work and vision of God for us. See you in worship.

Abundant blessings to you,
Pastor Grube

"If the only prayer you said in your entire life was 'thank you,' that would suffice."

—Meister Eckhardt

NOVEMBER WORSHIP

November brings important mileposts in the church year and worship. We begin the month remembering all the saints of God, the cloud of witnesses who surround us, both those who have gone before us into heavenly glory and those who surround us here and now in the community of believers in our congregation and church communities across the globe. And with our attention drawn heavenward, we also look ahead to the end time as we mark the end of the church year and the reign of Christ over all creation on November 23, the coming of Christ at the end of time, and the beginning of the church year with the first Sunday in Advent on November 30.

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FLEECE BLANKET PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who helped complete 24 fleece blankets for the children who will attend grief and special needs camp at Hillside Farm next summer. Stay tuned for the spring work session!

Marianne Mancke



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Enclosed with this newsletter is an order form and envelope for you to place your order for poinsettias that will be used to decorate the sanctuary Christmas Eve. Please note that you may also place your order online via St. Paul's website at www.stpaulsdallaspa.org and click on the Online Giving link. Be sure to include the name of the person in whose memory or honor you are giving the poinsettia(s). You may also specify a color, red or white. Deadline for placing your order is Sunday, November 30.



JUST A REMINDER

Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday night November 1. Daylight Saving time ends, November 2!

Also, the church will be closed Thanksgiving Day November 27 and Friday, November 28.

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GREETING CARD COLLECTION

Do you have any NEW greeting cards that you no longer want? If so, please bring them to the church and place them in the designated basket on the table in the hallway. The Social Ministry Committee will use them for upcoming mailings to shut-in members.

† † †

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for every good gift—for the food before us, the people around us, and the love that surrounds us. Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice in Your constant goodness and grace. May our hearts overflow with gratitude, not just today, but every day. Amen.



RAILROAD CLUB SPEAKER

The Back Mountain Railroad Club invites everyone to attend an historical presentation on Saturday, November 8 at 1:00 pm at St. Paul's. Titled "Do You See What I Feel?," the program will feature a presentation by railroad photographer Oren B. Helbok, who will describe the emotions he seeks to evoke in the people who view his images. Helbok grew up in the Bronx and with his father John experienced some of the early tourist railroad era, going out to chase trains at the age of 2. He has taken photographs, predominantly of steam trains, from coast to coast, Canada and Great Britain.

Local historian and life-long Harveys Lake resident Sandra Serhan also will offer a multimedia presentation titled "Memoirs of Harveys Lake," featuring the history of the lake and its community from the early 1900s to the 1950s. Serhan is the sole surviving charter member of the Harveys Lake Historical Society and is a former correspondent for the Citizens' Voice.

This presentation is free and open to the public. For more information contact Ray Mancke, Back Mountain Railroad Club president, at ramancke@aol.com.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Cub Scout Pack 241, which meets weekly at St. Paul's, is doing a service project by placing containers for new toys for children at Christmas. If you would like to participate, please place unwrapped new toys in the containers in the church foyer by Sunday, November 23, when they will be picked up by the U. S. Marines for distribution to families in need. Thank you for supporting our scouts.



On Thursday, November, 20 and on the third Thursday of each month, the Grief Support Group will meet at St. Paul's at 6:30 pm. These meetings are free and open to the public.



CUTE TURKEYS FEEDING THE HUNGRY

St. Paul's Sunday school classes will be decorating turkeys to be displayed in the Narthex. Any person can vote for their favorite turkey on November 16-23. The way a person votes is by placing a food pantry item in a basket below their favorite turkey. So plan on purchasing food items and bring them to church to cast your votes! Winners will be announced on November 23 during Sunday School hour. In addition to our Sunday School classes, this year we are opening the contest to any person or family in the church who would like to decorate a turkey for the contest. This is a fun opportunity to do a turkey craft AND collect food for the Back Mountain Food Pantry. Bring your turkey in by November 16 and label it with your name. See Julie Holbrook with any questions.

HEAD START CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Starting on Sunday, November 30, the First Sunday of Advent, there will be a Christmas tree in the hallway by the Social Hall doors. As in the past, this tree will be decorated with your gifts for our Head Start children who are in need of warm hats/gloves, scarves, gloves/mittens, socks/underwear, etc. This year we've been asked to include Pull Up's diapers (all sizes) which can be placed in a box under the tree.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS: singers, instrumentalists, bathtub whistlers, anyone who can carry a tune! The music program at St. Paul's has dwindled due to age, illness, and infirmities. We need volunteers to help lead worship and to provide special music at worship services. The ability to read music is not required. On Thursdays at 7:00 pm, anyone who would like to participate is welcome to gather in the music room to review the hymns for the next Sunday, to practice easy anthems and, in the time remaining, to sing any hymns you wish or would like to recommend for future anthems. We plan to sing one anthem a month and for festival services. You need not attend every rehearsal and can leave whenever you like; anyone who has attended at least one rehearsal of an anthem is welcome to sing with us.

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100th ANNIVERSARY WRAP UP

Hi! I'm not sure what to say, as our year is coming to a close. Our committee will meet on Sunday, November 2 and will have our final meeting on Sunday, December 7, to plan our Birthday for Jesus celebration with the Sunday School on Sunday, December 21.

It has been a busy year, and I wish to thank everyone for their help in planning all the special 100th anniversary events throughout the year.

God Bless,
Annie Bisher

"O Lord, that lends me life, Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness!"

—William Shakespeare



LABYRINTH WALKS

On Wednesday, November 19, and on the third Wednesday of each month thereafter, the labyrinth will be available for anyone from St. Paul's and the public to use from 3:00-6:00 pm. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins.

DORCAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

All women of St Paul's Lutheran Church (and guests) are welcome to attend the annual Dorcas Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 9. This year's event will be a delicious luncheon served at the Apple Tree terrace in Dallas. Plans include Christmas themed devotions, and a buffet style meal followed by musical entertainment.



A sign-up sheet will be posted in the church Narthex in the month of November. Price per person will be \$31.00. Deadline to sign up for the luncheon is Sunday, November 30. If sign-up is inconvenient, please call the church office at 570.675.3859 or email at stpaul@epix.net to place your name on the sign-up list.

We'd love to see you at Apple Tree!

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SHARED WORSHIP SERVICE

Our shared ministry with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church has become a blessing to both our congregations for over two years, and we are seeking ways to do even more. This Advent will provide us with two new opportunities in addition to one we have been enjoying since the beginning. Our quarterly Healing Service next month, December 10, will intentionally focus on healing from grief during the holiday season, sometimes referred to as a “Blue Christmas” service. We will continue to pray for healing of all types, but we will particularly focus on the grief many feel poignantly during the Christmas season, which is a time rife with tradition and family relations, especially if this is the first without a loved one.

The two new opportunities will also come in Advent. As we have provided an Advent Daily Devotional booklet for your home use over the years, we will share that booklet with both congregations this year, providing us with a resource for common prayer and devotion. The other new event is a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, akin to the Christmas Lessons and Carols we celebrate each year on the Sunday after Christmas Eve. This service will feature scripture readings of Advent prophecies and songs in reflection of the readings, along with prayer, and will conclude with cookie and coffee refreshments and a time for fellowship. The service will be Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 pm at St. Paul’s.

Mark your calendar now for this new opportunity for worship and fellowship together.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War 1 on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.



We always look forward to our annual Bear Creek Sunday when we welcome someone from the camp to be with us, preach, and lead our Sunday School “mini-camp.” While that usually happens in the spring, we will be marking our annual Bear Creek Camp weekend this month, November 23. Executive Director Collin Grooms will be with us to lead us in all the ways he has over the past several years, and we look forward to his being with us.

† † †

NEPA SYNOD NEWS

Our Northeastern PA Synod has recently hired two new staff people to carry out the work of the synod. Our new part-time Director for New Ministries is Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali. She will oversee and guide new ministries and Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities (SAWC) like the Indonesian Lutheran Church Scranton and others. The new full time Director for Leaders is Deacon Chelle Huth. She currently serves United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg and Philadelphia, as Director of Contextual/Field Formation, coordinating field education and internships, and she will continue doing some of that work in a unique seminary/synod partnership. Her work for the synod will be for congregations and rostered leaders (pastors, deacons) and Licensed Lay Ministers including guiding candidacy, internship, call, and mobility processes.

† † †



Hi Everyone,

So many times, there are hidden sugars in the foods we eat. Ugh! Especially for those of us with medical conditions, such as diabetes, who have to be so careful watching our diets! This is so important with the holidays coming.

Mary Ehret, our nutrition expert, sent me some information to help us out.

Would you like to learn more about the food you eat? The FDA has made it easier for you to spot “added sugars” in foods. If the food has a food label, simply look on the back for how much sugar the manufacturers added. Don’t worry if you are eating fresh fruit; it doesn’t have any added sugars, only natural ones. Natural sugars are also on the food label, listed as sugars. Added sugars are listed in grams or “g.”

For example, one teaspoon of sugar equals four grams. If the product contains 10 grams of added sugar, that would be equivalent to 2.5 teaspoons of sugar.

The CDC gives the names of added sugars that you may find on the products’ ingredient list. Look for more information on these websites: fda.gov/food/nutrition-food-labeling-and-critical-foods and cdc.gov/diabetes/healthy-eating/spotting-hidden-sugars-in-everyday-foods. Thanks, Mary!

In Love and Service and Gratitude,
Gail Ide, member of the
Health Ministries Team

† † †

You’ll become closer to God not by presenting God with your troubles, but by thanking God for your blessings.

FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Members of St. Paul’s,

I am writing to thank the congregation and the Dorcas Society for inviting us to attend the Fall Rummage Sale. Each time I’ve attended the Rummage Sale I’ve had the pleasure of interacting with several of your volunteers who are always so eager to help. I’d like to directly thank Cathy Policare, Carol Fett, Chris Bellezza, Karen Mertz, Ruth Ide and Anna Bisher for their assistance in gathering the donations we receive. Our patients regularly use these donations in so many ways including our Clothes Rack, Library, and for recreation and discharge preparation.

I always appreciate the opportunity to be invited and welcomed so warmly by so many friendly faces.

Thank you again for thinking of us.

Sincerely, Thomas Smith
Volunteer Resource Coordinator
Clarks Summit State Hospital

To the Members of St. Paul’s,

Thank you all for thinking of our clients and making them feel special. We really enjoy our time helping with the rummage sales and being able to assist with your landscaping projects!

Sincerely,
Pyramid Dallas

NOTES FROM HEAD START:

We would like to thank you for the blue light-up shoes our daughter came home with today. We love them and they fit perfectly.

Thank you so very much!
Sofia’s Parents

We would like to thank the person at St. Paul’s for purchasing the sneakers for our daughter. We really appreciate your generosity. Have a blessed day.

Katriss’ Parents

Giving you “high fives” for my new shoes!!! I love them.

Isabelle

Thank you for my new sneakers! I love them so much and will take care of them.

Niklaus